

# Fact Sheet

## Year-Round Water Use Restrictions Summary

*The information included in this summary document is based on Section 26-97 of Tampa's Code and Chapter 40D-22 F.A.C. For complete information on restrictions in effect, refer to the source documents. Water use restrictions may change at any time in response to changes in local or regional conditions. When restrictions change, notification is placed in utility bills and distributed through various media, including Alert Tampa and the Water Department's electronic newsletter, "The Pipeline."*

### **Irrigation of Established Lawns and Landscaping**

Irrigation of established lawns and landscaping is allowed up to twice a week between midnight and 8 a.m. and between 6 p.m. and midnight on assigned days. These restrictions apply to all water sources, except reclaimed water and non-turf areas where low-volume (maximum 30 gallon per hour) emitters are in use.

- At addresses ending in 0, 1, 2, or 3 – Mondays and Thursdays;
- At addresses ending in 4, 5, or 6 – Tuesdays and Fridays;
- At addresses ending in 7, 8, or 9 – Wednesdays and Saturdays;
- At locations with no address (common areas, entry areas) and locations with mixed addresses – Wednesdays and Saturday.

### **Irrigation of New Lawns (including sod, seed, plugs) and Landscaping**

The establishment period is limited to 60 calendar days. On days 1 – 30, beginning the day of installation, new plant material may be watered any day. On days 31 – 60, even numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays during permitted hours and odd numbered addresses, locations with no address and mixed addressed locations may water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. No establishment irrigation may be done between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on any day. Following the 60-day period, irrigation allowances return to twice-a-week, as described above. *Note: These allowances do not apply for overseeding of existing lawn. Please call for guidance.*

***The 50% Rule:*** *To operate a zone to establish new lawns and landscaping, new plant material must cover at least 50% of the zone. If this requirement is not met, new plant materials should be hand-watered for establishment.*

### **Low-Volume Irrigation**

Low-volume irrigation of plant materials other than lawns and grass is allowed any day at any time. Low-volume irrigation means the use of hand watering or micro-irrigation. *Micro-irrigation* means any irrigation device that distributes water near or within the root zone through equipment and devices that apply less than thirty (30) gallons per hour per emitter. Examples of micro-irrigation devices include drip, line source, microspray, microsprinkler, bubbler and similar types of soaker hoses.

### **Hand Watering**

Hand watering lawns and grass may be done only in permitted days and times. The use of a hose-end sprinkler placed in the yard is not considered hand watering and is subject to the same restrictions in place for in-ground systems.

306 East Jackson Street, 5E • Tampa, Florida 33602  
(813) 274-8811 • [tampagov.net/Water](http://tampagov.net/Water)

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## *Year-Round Water Use Restrictions Summary (continued)*

### **Reclaimed Water**

The use of reclaimed water is not restricted; however, its use must not be wasteful and unnecessary. Reclaimed water is defined by Code as water that has been produced through treatment at the Howard F. Curren Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant.

### **Irrigation System Maintenance**

Irrigation systems may be operated once a week during restricted hours for cleaning and maintenance purposes for up to 10 minutes per zone. An attendant must remain visible on site during the entire cleaning and maintenance period.

### **Chemical Treatment**

If chemicals (pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, etc.) are applied to your lawn or landscape by a hired professional, they can be watered in according to the manufacturer's instructions within 24 hours following application between midnight and 8 a.m. or between 6 p.m. and midnight unless a professional applicator has posted a temporary sign containing the date of application and date(s) of needed watering-in activity and also has provided written instructions listing the chemicals used and stating that the watering-in must occur immediately rather than during allowable watering hours. If chemicals are self-applied, the watering in must be done during days designated for your address between midnight and 8 a.m. or between 6 p.m. and midnight.

### **Automatic Rain Sensing Shut-Off Device**

By Florida Statute, all automatic irrigation systems, regardless of installation date, must be equipped with a rain sensing device or switch that will temporarily interrupt system operation.

### **Car Washing, Pressure Washing, Fountain Operation**

Car washing, pressure washing and fountain operation may occur at any time as long as water is not being used in a wasteful or inefficient manner. Where reclaimed water is in use for fountain operation, a sign advising that reclaimed water is in use must be posted.

### **Recreational Water Use**

Pools should be maintained in a way that minimizes the need for make-up water. This includes prompt repair of leaks, optimum scheduling of backwash filtration and the use of shade or covers to reduce evaporation.

Waste or inefficient water use for residential and other non-commercial recreation should be reduced as much as possible. For example, a sprinkler or sprinkler-like device, wading pool, "slip 'n' slide" or other child-oriented recreational device should run off or be emptied onto a lawn or landscape that requires irrigation.

*Information contained in this document is current as of August 1, 2017.*

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